Luttons PC Environmental Report
For the PC Meeting to be Held on Wednesday 4th November

The following information is based on my perception of the various topics noted below:

1. Rubbish i.e. fly tipping
2. Water Voles i.e. either in or out of the Gypsey Race
3. Trees i.e. either management or planting.
4. Village Planters and Benches
5. Dog Fouling
6. Parish Litter Picks
7. Grass cutting
8. Maintenance/Clearing of Gypsey Race
9. Maintenance of Parish Assets
10. Poor/dangerous road or footpath surfaces
11. Damage to any safety railings, e.g. over culverts
12. Flood prevention – gully jetting, weed removal, etc
13. Wildflower Area
14. Defibrillators
15. Noticeboards
16. Salt Bins

Item 1 - Rubbish i.e. fly tipping

There have been no reports of fly-tipping.

Item 2 – Water Voles

No reports of any sightings of Water Voles. Not surprising since there is no water in the Gypsey Race!

Item 3 - Trees

Nothing untoward that I am aware of.

Item 4 – Planters & Benches

Nothing to report.

Item 5 – Dog Fouling

Nothing to report.

Item 6 – Parish Litter Picks

Many thanks to Jill Cade who continues to pick up litter and rubbish as she walks and runs around our locale.

Thanks again Jill!

If anyone thinks that there is a need to organise a general 'Litter Pick' within the parish just let me know.

Item 7 – Grass Cutting

A final cut will be arranged in due course – provided it is deemed necessary by the PC.

Item 8 – Gypsey Race (GR)

At the September PC meeting it was agreed to look into the problem of flooding at the eastern end of Helperthorpe within the vicinity of the road junction which heads north towards Haverdale.

The issue revolves around the fact that the road gullies are full of silt. Those gullies connect to drains which cross the village green and outfall in to the Gypsey Race. Unfortunately, there is a further complication in that the outfall for those drains are now buried in silt within the Gypsey Race. As such water builds up on the road causing minor flooding and potential aquaplaning situation. This is followed, in extreme downpours, by water flooding across the Village Green in to the Gypsey Race and, on occasions, further flooding in to nearby gardens.

Having met with N Yorks Highways it was concluded that the solution would be to:

a. Clear out the Gypsey Race over a distance of around 70m to a depth below the outfalls of the drains;
b. Clean out the Gullies;
c. Clean out the drains by jetting.

This is for further discussion at the November PC Meeting.

Item 9 – Parish Assets

Councillor Stuart Bell is in the process of pulling together a 'maintenance schedule' for those assets.

Item 10 – Footpaths

We must thank NYCC for their work in clearing the overgrown footpaths in West Lutton and also between East Lutton and Helperthorpe.

Item 11 – Safety Railings

NYCC are examining the requirement for works to the safety railings just east of the entrance to St Mary's Church.

Item 12 – Flood Prevention

See Item 8 above.

Otherwise, there is nothing to report.

Item 13 - Wildflower Area

In spite of the very hot weather and lack of rain we experienced during the summer, and now well in to autumn, the wild flowers have not only bloomed but they are still in flower.

Sylvia and Chris Dowgill, and myself, went up in mid-Sept when we strimmed back the tall grasses and weeded out any dandelions, thistles and nettles. The result is as it can be seen today – even more flowers. Amazing!!

Future work: once all the flowers have died off it will be time to do a final strim (cutting the bed to around 4 to 6 inches), remove as many invasive weeds as possible, leave the strimmed cuttings on the bed for a week or two to dry and allow any seeds to drop – turning the cuttings every few days - and finally hand threshing those strimmings in order to release any further seeds.

Then wait to see what happens in the spring.

14 – Defibrillators

These are all working and ready for use.

Thanks must be given to our dedicated 'Guardians' who keep a regular beady eye on the defib equipment and report anything untoward.

15 – Noticeboards

Nothing to report.

16 – Salt Bins

These will be checked before the on-set of winter and filled as required.

17. Risk Assessments etc

I think it is time for these documents to be updated – not yet attended to.

MARTIN PEARCE – 26th October 2026.